

SURPLUS
NON RECORD MATERIAL
WW II RECORDS DIV., NARS.

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND " A "
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO #446
U. S. ARMY

On the first of Nov 1944, CCA was bivouacked in the vicinity of Septemes, France. The period 1 Nov to 6 Nov was spent preparing for movement to the north into the combat area. Supply shortages were corrected as much as possible along with maintenance of equipment and training of units. On the 5th of Nov the advance party left for the north to prepare for the arrival of the troops. On Tuesday, 7 Nov the first troops and track vehicles left Septemes by rail (boxcars and flatcars) with destination Chatel, France. The first wheeled vehicle column departed Septemes by road on 8 Nov 44, and arrived 10 Nov as did the first trains of troops and tanks

CCA closed vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux on 14 Nov 1944. The period 10 Nov to 19 Nov was spent bivouacked in the vicinity La Verrerie De Portieux preparing men and equipment for combat. Tactical studies were made of the fighting ability of tanks in the area that the command was destined for fighting. Column formations were formed for the purpose of meeting the problem of tanks being confined to the roads.

At 201400 Nov 44 CCA marched in two columns towards assembly area vic ST REMY and NONATELIZE from which it was to cross the MEURTHE RIVER and attack to the east. After having been restrained by VI Corps west of the line ST REMY-LASALLE for approximately 10 hours, units occupied their assigned areas.

At 211400 Operations Memorandum No 12 HqVI Corps was received changing the mission of CCA to a march northwest from RAMBERVILLERS thru BACCARAT-BLAMONT and CIREY to attack southeast to seize SCHIRMECK and block enemy forces withdrawing to the northeast. At 1900 the column having completely reversed and reformed, began the march ordered. The column halted on side roads vic BLAMONT between 2300 and 0630 at which time it resumed the march.

At 220830 the first enemy contact was made by the point of the 62 AIB leading the CCA column. After removing one road block the 62 was halted by another defended road block located at V500995. Enemy resistance was stubborn; small arms, machine gun and mortar fire held up our advance. About 1400 the 48 Tk Bn on CCA order sent a strong reconnaissance element down the ABRESCHWILLER-LE DONON road. By dark no report had been received of this rcn and the command outposted for the night.

At approximately 1900 message was received indicating transfer of CCA from VI Corps to XV Corps as of 1400.

On the morning of 26 Nov, 62 continued the attack up the BLANC-RUPT VALLEY and the 48 attacked up the ST QUIRIN valley. Both meeting defended road blocks. At the end of the day, our most advanced elements were at V586946. On 24 Nov both columns succeeded in breaking thru resistance and reaching a road junction V580914 near LE DONON. The 48 having reached the road jct first continued the attack down the road toward SCHIRMECK and was halted in the late afternoon by a large road crater at V582889.

By the next morning the road crater had been filled and the 48 continued its attack. XV Corps order of the previous evening had changed the CCA objective to a point 800 yards northwest of SCHIRMECK so as to prevent interference with VI Corps troops rapidly approaching SCHIRMECK from the southwest.

614-132

Nov 4

This objective was reached by the 48 at 1430 after several heavy fire fights near GRANDFONTAINE. Contact was then made with units of VI Corps and by 7th Army order CCA at that time was attached for operations to VI Corps.

The command remained on the SCHIRMECK - ST QUIRIN road until the morning 27 November at which time it marched by two columns to the Valley of the RHINE and turned south thru OBERNAI with the mission of seizing and holding the line ERSTEIN - BENFELD - SELESTAT. First contact was made at a defended road block at the CR northeast of GOXWILLER V8181. The west column, 25 tk Bn pushed thru this road block and moved south thru moderate resistance to GERTWILLER V8079 where it was stopped by a blown bridge. The 48 Tk Bn passed just east of GOXWILLER and turned to the southeast towards VALFF after a stiff fight on the west edge of VALFF, the 48 pushed thru, but was stopped by a blown bridge on the eastern edge of VALFF. The 62 which had been in reserve had meanwhile been sent thru BISCHOFFSHEIM - KRAUTERGETSHEIM and HINDISHEIM to attack south down the ERSTEIN - BENFELD - SELESTAT road. Shortly after dark, head of this column reached a point just northeast of BENFELD and met extremely heavy resistance. The enemy attacked with small arms, automatic weapons, mortars, antitank guns and artillery. The 62 was forced to withdraw. The 25 had meanwhile found a bypass around the blown bridge at GERTWILLER and attempted to cross. Heavy antitank and machine gun fire prevented the successful crossing and the 25 withdrew just to the north edge of town and outposted for the night. 48 meanwhile had reformed its column and moved so that its head was at WEISTRATZHEIM. VI Corps order restricted our zone for the next days attack to the OBERNAI - SELESTAT Highway and routes west thereof.

On 28 Nov the 25 continued its attack on GERTWILLER meeting very heavy resistance and being unable to push thru. The 48 attacked thru HERLIGENSTEIN and into BARR where it met extremely heavy antitank fire which inflicted many casualties and forced the withdrawal of the Bn.

On 29 Nov, 62, which had reverted to reserve on the previous day moved around to the east of the 25 thru BOURGHEIM and ZELLWILLER to a position just north of ST PIERRE where it was halted by a blown bridge heavily defended. 48 moved thru BARR to EICHHOFFEN where it was halted by a blown bridge. On 30 Nov bridges were constructed at ST PIERRE and ANDLAU, the latter in the face of heavy fire, and both columns continued the attack to the south. At the end of the day the 62 had cleared the west edge of EBERSHEIM and the 48 had turned east thru SCHERWILLER and halted on CCA order approximately one mile east of that town.

TROOP LIST

25th Tk Bn. 14th AD
 48th Tk Bn. 14th AD
 62nd Armd Inf Bn. 14th AD
 500th Armd F. Arty Bn. 14th AD
 B Trp, 94th Ren. Sqd. Mech. 14th AD
 Co. C, 125th Armd. Engr. Bn. 14th AD
 Co. C, 136th Ord. Maint. Bn. 14th AD
 Det. MP Platoon, 14th AD
 Det. 154th Signal Co. 14th AD
 A & B Btry, 398th AAA
 69th Armd F. Arty Bn. Atchd 270100 Nov 1944

CASUALTIES

Killed 7 Off. 37 EM
 Wounded 4 Off. 119 EM
 Missing 5 Off. 53 EM
 NBC 1 Off. 36 EM
 Repl Recd 0 Off 26 EM
 Axis Pris 116

ROSTER OF KEY PERSONNEL

G.H. KARLSTAD, Col., Inf. 08109 Comdg. Off.
 JOHN G. MONTGOMERY, Maj. Inf. 0381617 Exec. Off
 HUMBERT F. BIASELLA, Maj. Inf. 0336886 S-4
 GABRIEL, LOUIS T, Jr. Maj. MC 0388162 Med O
 DANIEL R. GENTRY Capt. F.A. 01165614 S-3
 DE WITT C. ARMSTRONG, 111, Capt., Inf. 025441 S-2
 CHARLES M. PAULUS, 1st Lt., Inf. 01014668 Comm. O.
 ROBERT B. FULTON, 111, 1st Lt., Inf. 0514661 Ln. O.
 DONALD R. Mc VEIGH, 1st Lt., Inf 01016105, Asst. S-4, claims & Real Estate O.
 WILLIAM J. HODGES, 2nd Lt., Inf. 0528403, Actg. S-1
 MADISON V. SCOTT, 2nd Lt., F.A. 0541528, Asst Comm O
 ROY L. CREWS, 1st Lt. 0556488, Chaplain
 JOHN P. STANTON, 1st Lt. 055708, Chaplain
 JOHN A. STAIR, 1st Lt., Inf, 01013869, Hq. Co. Comdr.

UNIT COMMANDERS

ERNEST C. WATSON, Maj. 0249093, 25th Tk Bn.
 JAMES H. MEYERS, Lt. Col., Inf. 62nd AIB
 E.H. FERRIS, Lt. Col. 48th Tk Bn.
 D.V. SWANSON, Lt. Col. 500th AFA
 FREDERICK J. SCHWIND, 1st Lt. A-84
 JOHN E. MARTIN, 1st Lt. B-94
 FRANKLIN R. WALLACE, Jr. Capt. C-125
 JAMES K. TYRELL, 1st Lt. C-136

~~SECRET~~

HEADQUARTERS COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION
APO 446 U S ARMY

nrb
5 January 1945

HISTORY OF COMBAT COMMAND "A"
MONTH OF DECEMBER 1944



The Combat Command was proceeding in two road fighting columns south from OBERNAI with SELESTAT as the objective. The 62d Armored Infantry Battalion reinforced proceeded south on the main OBERNAI - SELESTAT Highway, which the 48th Tank Battalion reinforced followed a roughly parallel course west of the main highway proceeding south from BARR.

CCA gained the objective assigned by VI Corps -- SCHERWILLER - EBERSHEIM -- on 1 Dec 1944. 62 AIB entered and secured the town of EBERSHEIM against enemy artillery, machine gun and small arms fire. 48 Tk Bn reached SCHERWILLER turned east and encountered a defended road block 1 mile east of town.

CCA was attached to 103 Inf Div at 011000 December 1944 and relieved from attachment thereto and placed in VI Corps Reserve 012115 Dec. CCA moved north to join the 14th Armd Div in vicinity HOCHFELDEN 031700 December. The combat command closed vicinity HOCHFELDEN 040330 December.

On 6 Dec the division commander reorganized the tactical groupings, the following units being attached to CCA: 25 Tk Bn, 62 AIB, Tr B 94 Rcn Sqdn (Mecz), Co C, 125 Armd Engr Bn, and Co A 84 Armd Med Bn. During the period 4 December to 12 December, units directed their time to training and maintenance of vehicles, weapons and personnel.

On 7 December, CCA was given the mission of increasing vehicular and radio activity in vicinity GUEDERSHEIM, WEYERSHEIM, and HOERDT, during the period 8 to 10 December.

62 AIB conducted a demonstration on "Assault of a Fortified Area" and the 25 Tk Bn conducted a demonstration on "Passage of An Armored Column"

~~SECRET~~

34

~~SECRET~~



through Towns and Villages".

Three platoons of Co C 25 Tk Bn operated in vicinity GUEDERSHEIM, WEYERSHEIM, HOERDT and reconnaissance was made of area GUEDERSHEIM, BRUMATH, WERTBURCH as per orders 14 Armd Div. Other units reconnoitered routes and area of possible future operations.

On 13 Dec CCA was given the mission of attacking on axis SURBOURG - WISSEMBOURG; seize WISSEMBOURG area and crossings over LAUTER RIVER. On 13 December CCA following CCB moved in one column from vicinity ZOEBERSDORF via HOCHFELDEN - HAGUENAU, reaching SOULTZ with advance elements at dark. First enemy contact was made by 62 AIB on the outskirts of SOULTZ. Tr C 94 Ron Sqdn (Mecz) was attached to CCA at SURBOURG and operated in zone REIMERSWILLER - HATTEN with patrols reaching HOHWILLER and STUNDWILLER.

On 14 December the 62 AIB advanced four miles seizing towns of SCHOENENBERG and INGOLSHEIM, being stopped at RIEDSELTZ by a blown bridge where the column received heavy artillery and mortar fire. The 25 Tk Bn advanced to OBERSEEBACH where it was held up by a blown bridge.

The 62 AIB constructed a bridge at the north edge of RIEDSELTZ under enemy artillery and mortar fire. Dismounted infantry pushed forward followed by tanks through organized enemy positions, being pinned down one kilometer north of RIEDSELTZ by heavy and accurate artillery fire. 25 Tk Bn completed construction of bridge east of OBERSEEBACH during early morning and launched attack from OBERSEEBACH advancing five kilometers before being held up by anti-tank, artillery and mortar fire. Column received counterattack by six enemy tanks which was repulsed knocking out two of the enemy tanks.

~~SECRET~~

35

~~SECRET~~



Tr B 94 Ren Sqdn (Mecz) was given the mission of occupying and holding STEINSELTZ and OBERHOFFEN. Tr C 94 patrolled the bypassed MAGINOT LINE fortifications in CCA zone.

On 16 December 62 AIB continued the attack to the north seizing WISSEMBOURG and crossing the German border at 1202A, advancing to the area north of RECHTENBACH where night outposts and prisoner traps were established. 25 Tk Bn continued the attack to the north encountering a blown bridge at ALTENSTADT. Patrols advanced through WISSEMBOURG, crossed the German border at 1100A, proceeded to the northeast to SCHWEIGHOFEN where outposts and prisoner traps were established.

On 17 December the 25 Tk Bn continued the attack to the northeast advancing one kilometer past SCHWEIGHOFEN. A force comprised of the following: Tr C 94, 1 Plat Co A 25 Tk Bn, 1st & 3d Plats Co D 25 Tk Bn, two assault guns, two rifle squads, two combat engineer squads and a tank dozer, commanded by Major Shedd of the 25 Tk Bn, was given the mission of pushing on BERGZABERN and KAPELLEN for the purpose of determining enemy dispositions and strength along the line of the ERLNBACH RIVER and ground immediately north thereof. Task Force Shedd advanced to south edge of OBEROTTERBACH where it was held up by fire from SIEGFRIED LINE.

On 17 December all units CCA moved south of safety line SCHWEIGEN - SCHWEIGHOFEN for armored vehicles; WISSEMBOURG - ALTENSTADT for unarmored vehicles, giving clearance for air bombardment missions. Both columns and Shedd Task force attacked at 1330, 62 advancing to one kilometer north of RECHTENBACH and 25 advancing to western outskirts of STEINFELD where it encountered a road block. Shedd Task Force advanced two kilometers north of SCHWEIGHOFEN where it was held up by impassable roads and heavy fire from

~~SECRET~~



pillboxes. Night patrols operated to reconnoiter the SIEGFRIED LINE.

68 AIB ordered by 14 AD to relieve 62 AIB, completed its relief by 180100A Dec 1944.

On 18 December, 68 AIB attacked and reached northern outskirts of OBEROTTERBACH, encountering heavy resistance of artillery, small arms and accurate sniper fire, and was forced to withdraw into OBEROTTERBACH. 68 received counterattack in afternoon which cut off two platoons of Co B 68 in the town of OBEROTTERBACH. The battalion established defensive position approximately 800 yards south of OBEROTTERBACH astride N-S road. The bulk of the personnel cut off in OBEROTTERBACH rejoined the battalion during the night.

CCA was given the mission of organizing a defensive line generally between RECHTENBACH and KAPSWEYER and delivering harassing fire on fortifications of the SIEGFRIED LINE. No attack to be made except by fire.

The 25 Tk Bn in vicinity KAPSWEYER was harassed by artillery and sniper fire. Dismounted activity was confined to patrolling, to determine the defenses of the SIEGFRIED LINE fortifications, establishing observation posts and clearing snipers from KAPSWEYER. An air-support mission was flown on STEINFELD with little apparent effect.

The Shedd Task force was disbanded on 19 December. 25 Tk Bn was relieved by 48 Tk Bn. Attack by fire against fortifications of the SIEGFRIED LINE was continued by both battalions.

Relief of CCA by 315 Inf Regt of the 79 Inf Div began on 22 December and was completed on 24 December with command in zone being turned over to 315th Inf at 0900. CCA closed in assembly area vicinity of KUTZENHAUSEN on 24 December.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



The period 24 to 28 December was spent in training of replacements, physical conditioning, maintenance of vehicles and weapons and reconnaissance of possible routes of operations. Officers and key NCOs attended counter-sabotage instruction given by 7th Army on 28 December.

CCA was relieved from attachment to VI Corps and attached XV Corps for operations on 28 December. CCA closed in assembly area in vicinity SIEWILLER 290500 December. CCA in XV Corps reserve, was alerted to move on Corps order on three hours notice from assembly area, prepared to counter-attack in direction DRULINGEN - SARRE UNION or DRULINGEN - RAHLING; or to move to the vicinity of TIEFFENBACH to block passage thru VOSGES between TIEFFENBACH and PHALSBOURG. Period 29 to 31 December spent reconnoitering possible routes for future operations, and organizing for execution of assigned missions. Training and maintenance of vehicles and weapons was carried on by all units.

Localities captured by CCA during month of December.

<u>FRANCE</u>	<u>GERMANY</u>
HERMERSWILLER	SCHWEIGHOFEN
HOFFEN	KAPSWEYER
HUNSPACH	ST PAUL
OBERSEEBACH	SCHWEIGEN
GEUTERHOF	RECHTENBACH
GEISBERG	
SCHOENENBOURG	
INGOLSHEIM	
RIEDELSTZ	
OBERDOF	
WISSEMBOURG	
ALTENSTADT	

Troop List - 1 December 1944.

Hq & Hq Co CCA 25 Tank Battalion

- 5 -
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~



Troop List (Contd)

Co A 84 Armd Med Bn	48 Tank Battalion
Tr B 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz)	62 Armd Inf Bn
Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn	500 Armd Field Arty Bn
Co C 136 Ord Maint Bn	69 Armd Field Arty Bn
A & B Btry 398 AAA	
MP Det 14AD	
Sig Det 154 Sig Co	

Losses and Gains during month of December.

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Losses</u>	<u>Gains</u>
4 Dec 44	48 Tk Bn 500 AFA Bn Co C 136 Ord Maint Bn A & B Btry, 398 AAA 69 AFA Bn MP Det 14 AD Sig Det 154 Sig Co	
13 Dec 44		Tr C 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz) Det MP Plat 14AD Det 154 Armd Sig Co
18 Dec 44	62 Armd Inf Bn	68 Armd Inf Bn
19 Dec 44	25 Tk Bn	48 Tk Bn
21 Dec 44	Tr B 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz)	
24 Dec 44	Co A 84 Armd Med Bn Det MP Plat 14 AD Det 154 Armd Sig Co	
25 Dec 44	Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn	
26 Dec 44	Tr C 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz)	
28 Dec 44		501 AFA Bn Co A 84 Armd Med Bn Tr C 94 Cav Ron Sqdn (Mecz) Co C 125 Armd Engr Bn Co B 136 Ord Maint Bn Btry D 398 AAA Det MP Plat 14 AD Det 154 Armd Sig Co

- 6 -
~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

Troop List as of 31 December 1944

Hq & Hq CCA
48 Tk Bn
68 AIB
501 AFA Bn
Co A, 84 Armd Med Bn
Co B, 136 Ord Maint Bn
Tr C, 94 Cav Rcn Sqdn (Mecz)
Co C, 125 Armd Engr Bn
D Btry 398 AAA
Det MP Plat 14 AD
Det 154 Armd Sig Co



Roster of Key Personnel

Combat Command Staff

C. H. Karlstad, Col. Inf Comdg
John G. Montgomery, Maj Inf Ex O
Humbert F. Biasella, Maj Inf S-4
Louis T. Gabriel, Jr, Maj MC Med O
Daniel R. Gentry, Maj FA S-3
DeWitt C. Armstrong III, Capt Inf S-2
Robert B. Fulton III, 1st Lt Inf Asst S-3
Donald R. McVeigh, 1st Lt Inf Ln O
William J. Hodges, 2d Lt Inf S-1
Madison V. Scott, 2d Lt FA Comm O
Archibald R. Schaffer, 1st Lt Cav Hq Comdt
Roy L. Crews, 1st Lt Chaplain
John P. Stanton, 1st Lt. Chaplain

Unit Commanders

Ernest C. Watson, Lt Col 25 Tk Bn
James H. Myers, Lt Col 62 AIB
Bob E. Edwards, Lt Col 68 AIB
John C. Cavin, Maj 48 Tk Bn
D. V. Swanson, Lt Col 500 AFA Bn
Joseph H. Harrison, Lt Col 501 AFA Bn
Frederick J. Schwind, Capt A-84
John E. Martin, 1st Lt B-94
James C. Fry, Capt C-94
Franklin R. Wallace, Capt C-125
Jay W. Hornbeak, Capt B-136

Casualties - December 1944

	<u>Off</u>	<u>EM</u>
Killed	0	26
Wounded	8	163
Non-battle casualties	0	92
Replacements Received	6	198
Axis Prisoners	74	
Battle & non-battle casualties returned to duty	68	

~~SECRET~~

CONFIDENTIAL

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY, COMBAT COMMAND "A"
14TH ARMORED DIVISION, APO 446
U. S. Army



7 January 1945

UNIT PERIODIC HISTORY
MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1944

The company performed its usual services for the Combat Command "A" Headquarters during its operations for the month - presented in detail in the CC "A" periodic history.

OPENING TIMES OF COMMAND POSTS

1 Dec 44.....	Goxwiller
010830.....	St. Pierre
011326.....	Epfig
032325.....	Zoebersdorf
131725.....	Surburg
141130.....	Soultz
141920.....	Ingolsheim
151615.....	Riedseltz
161620.....	Wissembourg
171110.....	Riedseltz
171445.....	Wissembourg
240905.....	Kutzenhausen Le Haut
290050.....	Siewiller
31 Dec 44.....	Siewiller

CASUALTIES

Killed.....	None
Wounded.....	None
Non-battle casualties.....	2
Transfers (out).....	1
Replacements received.....	None
Returned to duty.....	None

STRENGTH AS OF 31 DEC 44

Officers	
1st Lieutenants.....	3
Warrant Officer (JG).....	1
	4
E.M. (including 2 Medical attachments).....	75

CONFIDENTIAL

41

C O N F I D E N T I A L

ROSTER OF OFFICERS

ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFFER	1ST LT.	01015913
STAIR, JOHN A.	1ST LT.	01013869
MURRAY, NORMAN J.	1ST LT.	01015889
FALK, WARREN J.	WOJG	W-2128014



Archibald R. Schaffer

ARCHIBALD R. SCHAFFER,
1st Lieut., Cav.,
Commanding.

C O N F I D E N T I A L